I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of treating or alleviating a respiratory disorder ~~which comprises~~ comprising administering an effective amount of the active ingredients formoterol, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and fluticasone, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, separately, sequentially or simultaneously, provided that the active ingredients comprise separate compositions.

Claim 2. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, are administered separately or sequentially.

Claim 3. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 2 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, are administered sequentially.

Claim 4. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 3 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the method comprises the administration of fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, followed by the sequential administration of formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 5. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 2 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, are delivered separately.

Claim 6. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable thereof, are administered by inhalation.

Claim 7. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 6 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, are administered by way of pressurized aerosols comprising a pharmaceutical composition in admixture with at least a suitable propellant.

Claim 8. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 7 in which a surfactant is present.

Claim 9. (currently amended l) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~8~~ 7 in which a surfactant is absent.

Claim 10. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~9~~ 8 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the surfactant is a mixture of surfactants.

Claim 11. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 7 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the propellant, or mixture of propellants, is a non-CFC propellant.

Claim 12. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 11 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the propellant, or mixture of propellants, is selected from hydrofluoroalkanes (HFA).

Claim 13. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 12 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the propellant is HFA 134.

Claim 14. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 12 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the propellant is HFA 227.

Claim 15. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 12 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the propellant is a mixture of HFA 134 and HFA 227.

Claim 16. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 6 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, are administered by way of a dry powder inhaler.

Claim 17. (currently amended) A dry powder inhaler containing formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof in separate compositions, which may be administered separately, sequentially or simultaneously~~, provided that they are administered as separate compositions~~.

Claim 18. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The dry powder inhaler according to claim ~~15~~ 17 ~~comprising~~ wherein the formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, are each in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

Claim 19. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The dry powder inhaler according to claim ~~16~~ 18 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the adjuvant, diluent or carrier is selected from dextran, mannitol and lactose.

Claim 20. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The dry powder inhaler according to claim 17 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the adjuvant, diluent or carrier is lactose.

Claims 21-22. (cancelled)

Claim 23. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the fluticasone,

or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, are administered by way of a nebuliser comprising a solution or a suspension of formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof.

Claim 24. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ ~~a~~ wherein the amount of formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, administered to a patient is from 20 to 500 μg and the amount of fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, administered to a patient is from 3 to 50 μg; once or twice daily.

Claim 25. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the respiratory disorder is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) ~~COPD~~.

Claim 26. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of formoterol, is selected from ~~an~~ acid addition salts; hydrochloride, hydrobromide, sulphate, phosphate, maleate, tartrate, citrate, benzoate, 4-methoxybenzoate, 2- or 4-hydroxybenzoate, 4-chlorobenzoate, p-toluensulphonate, methanesulphonate, ascorbate, salicylate, acetate, fumarate, succinate, lactate, glutarate, gluconate, hydroxynaphthalenecarboxylate and oleate.

Claim 27. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 26 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of formoterol, is the fumarate salt.

Claim 28. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable ester of fluticasone, is the propionate ester.

Claim 29. (currently amended) A method of attaining improved glucocorticoid receptor translocation into the nucleus by the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of ~~a β_2 agonist~~ formoterol and ~~a steroid~~ fluticasone in therapeutically effective amounts wherein the method provides an improvement of at least 20% over ~~prior art β_2 agonist~~

~~and steroid combination therapies~~ a therapeutically effective combination of salmeterol and fluticasone, combination of formoterol and budesonide, or combination of salmeterol and budesonide.

Claims 30-33 (cancelled)

Claim 34. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ratio of formoterol, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to fluticasone, or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof, is in the range 1:0.4 to 1:167.

Claim 35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (new) A method of improving β_2 receptor expression comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a glucocorticoid to a human patient to improve β_2 receptor expression.

Claim 37 (new) A method of improving β_2 receptor expression in a human comprising including a glucocorticoid in a medicament in effective amount to provide improved β_2 receptor expression when the medicament is administered to a human.